

Commander's Call Topics



Jan. 7, 2011

"Strength of character is the heart of our armed forces. It is a strength that comes from the remarkable diversity of the citizens we protect and serve." – Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, from his [2011 guidance](#) to chart the way forward in America's wars, in improving the health of the force and in balancing global risks

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Networthiness sets standards for DOD, AF networks](#)

The Air Force soon will have a relatively new term to add to its network operations lexicon: "Networthiness." Air Force Network Integration Center officials recently led efforts to develop the Department of Defense's networthiness concept, an operational assessment that goes well beyond information security to provide a holistic review of anything and everything that connects to a DOD network.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Congress extends Stop Loss application deadline](#)

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for retroactive Stop Loss special pay has been extended to March 4, 2011. Congress established the retroactive pay to compensate service members who served involuntary extensions or whose retirement was suspended between Sept. 11, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2009. For more visit the AFPC Stop Loss website at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss>.

[Officials seek bilingual officers for training school](#)

Bilingual officers have until Feb. 1 to apply to participate in the 2011 Inter-American Squadron Officer School Program. This program focuses on inter-Americanism and developing Latin American regional affairs specialists for the Air Force. A [webinar](#) on the IAAFA program will be conducted on Jan. 19 at 8 a.m. CDT for interested officers, or visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#).

[Air Force officials approve changes to officer selection brief](#)

The modified officer selection brief will be used beginning with boards in June and include a more detailed professional military education section, the addition of a foreign language proficiency section and an acquisition qualifications section. For more information and links to resources, visit the Officer Promotions page at the [AFPC personnel services website](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

[Fitness regulation changes based on Airmen's feedback](#)

An Air Force Guidance Memorandum was issued that provides policy changes to AFI 36-2905, Fitness Program, and was implemented Jan. 1. Compliance with the program is mandatory and outlines notable clarifications from the original July 1 guidance, such as specified waist-measurement procedures, sit-up and push-up instruction and clarity of target-component values to achieve an overall passing score. For the complete AFGM 2, visit the [Air Force e-publications website](#). An Air Force assessment video will be posted to the [Air Force Fitness Program website](#) in January 2011.

[2011 Air Force Marathon registration open](#)

The 15th annual event will occur Sept. 17 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. In addition to a full 26.2 mile marathon, runners also can compete in a 13.1 mile half marathon, a 10K run or a 5K race. Marathon organizers are encouraging runners to [register](#) early this year.

CIVILIAN

[Deadline approaching for civilian awards nominations](#)

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2011 Air Force Association Outstanding Air Force Civilian Employees of the Year Award is Feb. 15. Each year, AFA officials recognize four Air Force civilian employees for outstanding achievement in four categories: Wage Employee; Program Specialist; Program Manager; and Senior Program Manager. For more information, visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#).

[Virtual inprocessing simplifies civilian PCS](#)

The new civilian permanent-change-of-station process is conducted virtually through the Civilian Virtual Inprocessing system, or cVIP, that is available on the [Air Force Personnel Center personnel services website](#). Revisions in the civilian PCS orders process are intended to save time and money, and reduce errors for hiring officials, relocating employees and personnelists.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Nominations open for Military Child of the Year Award](#)

Operation Homefront, a troop- and military-family support group, is inviting people to nominate outstanding military children for the 2011 Military Child of the Year Award. One child each from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will be recognized. Nominations will be accepted online until Jan. 31 at <http://www.OperationHomefront.net/MCOY>.

[Families invited to dial into helping webinars](#)

Officials at the [Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury](#) have released their monthly webinar series schedule for 2011. Topics will range from the impact of war on children to post-traumatic stress disorder in the wake of a natural disaster. Webinars are scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. EST. Visit the [DCoE blog](#) for a detailed list.

[All Americans encouraged to visit a national park this year](#)

National Park Service officials will waive admission fees on 17 selected dates throughout 2011 and encourage all Americans to make a New Year's resolution to visit a national park this year. The 2011 fee-free dates are: Jan. 15-17; April 16-24; June 21; Sept. 24; and Nov. 11-13. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>.

[DOD officials urge service members to stop using tobacco](#)

In the tradition of New Year's, active-duty and retired service members and their families are asked to make a resolution to quit using tobacco. "[Quit Tobacco -- Make Everyone Proud](#)" is the Department of Defense's tobacco cessation campaign.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[Changes coming to the Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 was recently signed into law. For a summary of the changes, read the AF.mil story or visit the [Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 GI Bill website](#).

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

Jan. 1, 1957 – Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, became the single site for Air Force basic training.

Jan. 8, 1973 – An F-4D Phantom shot down a MiG southwest of Hanoi with a radar-guided AIM-7 missile. This is the last aerial victory before the signing of the cease-fire that would go into effect Jan. 29.

Jan. 9, 1976 – The 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, Langley Air Force Base, Va., received its first F-15 Eagle.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

The Defense Media Activity-San Antonio produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA-SA product, send e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil. To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to www.af.mil/information/subscribe.